

NATIONAL RECORDER.

Containing Essays upon subjects connected with Political Economy, Science, Literature, &c.; Papers read before the Agricultural Society of Philadelphia; a Record of passing Events; Selections from Foreign Magazines, &c. &c.

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To Readers and Correspondents.

The communication, signed "SENEX," upon the late election, cannot be published, because, for several reasons, this paper will take sides with no party *as such*. To this course we are determined in the first place, by a hope of securing for it a circulation among the members of all parties, and secondly by an earnest wish that the influence of party spirit may be destroyed. Can it longer be a question whether this emulation be an evil, when we have seen men the most exalted in talents and virtue, prevented by a kind of proscription, from exerting those abilities in the service of the public? We have seen the most eager animosity appear between those who were friends by nature and habit, as soon as a discussion arose which touched upon the prejudices endeared to them by the ties of party. Our hopes, perhaps, influence our opinions, when we say that an important change appears to be silently operating in this respect, and that the time is approaching when an able and independent man may win his way into public life, without any other recommendation than his own character, and with no other pledge than that afforded by known integrity. Such men will decide every public measure upon its own merits, and will not be driven, to insure popularity, to consider what would be most agreeable to the party with which they are united. They will be representatives of the whole, and not agents of a part.

We do not hesitate, however, to join in the earnest wishes of our correspondent, "that the new governor may call to his councils none but those whose integrity and independence are undoubted, and that in his appointments he will always remember that offices are created for the good of the people, and not for the profit of the officer." By a distribution of the places in his gift among such as are qualified, by the respect attached to their private character, to add to the dignity of a public office, he will restore Pennsylvania to her natural

weight in the republic, and we shall have no cause to complain of Virginia ascendancy. The influence that has so long been maintained by the latter state, has been the deserved reward of the wisdom that always selected men of ability for public employments.

The improvement of this commonwealth is one of the worthiest objects that can animate human ambition. So much has been already effected by the weight of her example, that the legislator would have good reason to believe that his exertions would be felt not only throughout the United States, but among the agitations and tempests of European politics. There are several great objects towards which we should be glad to see the public attention directed; among which are, the improvement of the *practice* of the penitentiary system, and the amendment of the militia system so as to make it less burdensome to all, and to exempt the society of Friends, who deserve it at our hands by their prompt support of every plan for promoting public good. As the law now is, its only effect is to produce idleness and drunken debauchery, and cause an annual loss to the state of a sum sufficient to make all the great improvements in inland navigation, that are so much desired.

There has lately arisen a question under the constitution, of considerable importance. Congress have authorized the corporation of the city of Washington to draw lotteries for effecting any important improvement in the city, which the ordinary revenue will not accomplish: provided that the amount raised shall not exceed ten thousand dollars per annum, and the object shall be approved by the President.

Have the legislatures of the individual states power, by any law which they can pass, to prohibit the sale of the tickets in the lotteries thus established in the city of Washington?

A legal opinion on this question, deciding it in the negative, has been published in the

National Intelligencer, signed by William Pinckney (Md.), David B. Ogden (N. Y.), Thomas Addis Emmet (N. Y.), John Wells (N. Y.), and Walter Jones (D. C.). We were very much surprised at seeing this, for we had had no doubt that it would be decided immediately, in a different manner; and notwithstanding all the weight added to an opinion by the names abovementioned, are unable to change our first view of the matter.

Lotteries are considered as an immoral and injurious species of gambling, and are therefore positively forbidden in many of the states, unless when consent has been had of their legislatures. This does not (as the opinion alluded to asserts,) alter the transferability of the tickets, for Congress legislating only for the District of Columbia, can only there make it lawful to sell tickets: but if it had this effect, we are utterly unable to see why the state is unable to make a general law relating to lotteries. Suppose Congress should authorize the corporation of Washington to raise money by keeping Faro tables, or by the sale of slaves; would the state laws against gambling and slavery be abrogated so far as they may interfere with these objects? We should not consider the liberties of the people, or the authority of the states, as safe, if such a construction of the constitution could be carried into effect.

One of the northern papers, speaking of the practice of smuggling on that frontier, states that the laws are entirely inefficient to prevent it, and that only public opinion can be the corrective. This is the first time we have heard that violations of the revenue laws were so common in any part of the United States, as to cease to be infamous. We should except the traffic in slaves carried on in the southern parts of Georgia, &c. In this part of the republic, public opinion makes no difference between the smuggler and the *private cheat*. This subject will probably attract much attention, and we shall be able to see how far the evil extends. If smuggling exist now, what can we expect should high duties be laid on foreign commodities?

Mr. Samuel Woodworth, "late editor of the Ladies' Literary Cabinet," has issued proposals for a work which he calls the Poet's Prompter, which will supply *rhymes for all subjects*, and answer at the same time as a dictionary of quotations, and a dissertation upon the manner in which

poetry ought to be written. Some of the New York editors think it will be no less useful as an assistant to the writers in prose.

Our readers will perceive by an extract of a letter from Paris of the 31st August, that the French government show no symptoms of submitting to our attempt to force a free trade with them. We are inclined to believe that a little patience under the impolitic course of foreign nations, will be the most effectual means of teaching them their true interests. This legislative war excites animosity, and national pride will scarcely yield a point when thus assailed.

The reason given in the following extract from Berlin, for negotiating loans, is quite a new one: "Some public papers assert that the great Austrian loan compels other German states to negotiate similar loans, in order to prevent all the current coin from being taken out of the country. Thus Bavaria will negotiate a loan of 30,000,000 of florins."

We should be very glad if we could give our readers a just view of the state of affairs in South America, but are entirely unable to judge of the truth or falsehood of the great number of contradictory accounts constantly coming in. We have arrived at an almost universal scepticism as to news from that quarter.

Miscellany.

For the National Recorder.

APPRENTICES' LIBRARY.

I have lately had the pleasure of a conversation with a gentleman who was one of the most active in the establishment of the institution at Boston. He informs me that the library there is very much used by the apprentices, there being upwards of 700 applicants. The Life of Franklin is particularly sought for, and all their copies of it are generally in use, though they have 100! In consequence of the great number of boys to be accommodated, it is impossible to admit them into the room; they apply at the window, and sometimes a choice is made for them. Bibles are not given away, lest they should not be sufficiently valued; but any boy may have, beside the other books he gets from time to time, a Bible for one year, at the end of which time he returns it in good order and

takes it again. A very perceptible alteration in their habits has already taken place. Sunday is spent much more quietly than it formerly was. In consequence of an application for Euclid's Elements by a boy who did not look as if he could use it, an examination took place, by which it was discovered that he had a most surprising aptitude for mathematical investigations. How much may we not hope from an institution that thus offers to every one that mental food which is most congenial to him! Next month a library will be opened in New York. Four thousand volumes were collected some time ago, and the managers calculate confidently upon beginning with six thousand. There are several of the same kind in Maine. An attempt is about to be made to establish one in Baltimore, and will no doubt be successful. The happy influence of those already in operation, will shortly place them in every considerable town in the United States. Henry the Fourth said, that it was the greatest wish of his heart, that the time would arrive, when every peasant in his dominions might have a chicken for his Sunday's dinner; but it will be much more grateful to every lover of freedom and virtue and mankind, when every village in the United States has an *Apprentices' Library*.

FRANKLIN.

From the New Monthly Magazine.

On the Living Novelists.

GODWIN.

Mr. Godwin is the most original—not only of living novelists—but of living writers in prose. There are, indeed, very few authors of any age who are so clearly entitled to the praise of having produced works, the first perusal of which is a signal event in man's eternal history. His genius is by far the most extraordinary, which the great shaking of nations and of principles—the French revolution—impelled and directed in its progress. English literature, at the period of that marvellous change, had become sterile; the rich luxuriance which once overspread its surface, had gradually declined into thin and scattered productions of feeble growth and transient duration. The fearful convulsion which agitated the world of politics and of morals, tore up this shallow and exhausted surface—disclosed vast treasures which had been concealed for centuries—burst open the secret springs of imagination and of thought—and left, instead of the smooth and weary plain,

a region of deep vallies and of shapeless hills, of new cataracts and of awful abysses, of spots blasted into everlasting barrenness, and regions of deepest and richest soil. Our author partook in the first enthusiasm of the spirit-stirring season—in “its pleasant exercise of hope and joy”—in much of its speculative extravagance, but in none of its practical excesses. He was roused not into action but into thought; and the high and undying energies of his soul, unwasted on vain efforts for the actual regeneration of man, gathered strength in those pure fields of meditation to which they were limited. The power which might have ruled the disturbed nations with the wildest, directed only to the creation of high theories and of marvellous tales, imparted to its works a stern reality, and a moveless grandeur, which never could spring from mere fantasy. His works are not like those which a man, who is endued with a deep sense of beauty, or a rare faculty of observation, or a sportive wit, or a breathing eloquence, may fabricate as the “idle business” of his life, as the means of profit or of fame. They have more in them of acts than of writings. They are the living and the immortal *deeds* of a man who must have been a great political adventurer had he not been an author. There is in “Caleb Williams” alone, the material—the real burning energy—which might have animated a hundred schemes for the weal or wo of the species.

No writer of fictions has ever succeeded so strikingly as Mr. Godwin, with so little adventitious aid. His works are neither gay creatures of the element, nor pictures of external life; they derive not their charm from the delusions of fancy, or the familiarities of daily habitude—and are as destitute of the fascinations of light satire and felicitous delineation of society, as they are of the magic of the Arabian tales. His style has “no figures and no fantasies,” but is simple and austere. Yet his novels have a power which so enthralls us, that we half doubt, when we read them in youth, whether all our experience is not a dream, and these the only realities. He lays bare to us the innate might and majesty of man. He takes the simplest and most ordinary emotions of our nature, and makes us feel the springs of delight or of agony which they contain, the stupendous force which lies hid within them, and the sublime mysteries with which they are connected. He exhibits the naked wrestle of the passions in a vast solitude, where no object of material beauty disturbs our attention from

the august spectacle, and where the least beating of the heart is audible in the depth of the stillness. His works endow the abstractions of life with more of real presence, and make us more intensely conscious of existence, than any others with which we are acquainted. They give us a new feeling of the capacity of our nature for action or for suffering, make the currents of our blood mantle within us, and our bosoms heave with indistinct desires for the keenest excitements and the strangest perils. We feel as though we could live years in moments of energetic life, while we sympathize with his breathing characters. In things which before appeared indifferent, we discern sources of the fullest delight, or of the most intense anguish. The healthful breathings of the common air seem instinct with an unspeakable rapture. The most ordinary habits which link one season of life to another, become the awakers of thoughts and of remembrances "which do often lie too deep for tears." The nicest disturbances of the imagination make the inmost fibres of the being quiver with the most penetrating agonies. Passions which have not usually been thought worthy to agitate the soul, now first seem to have their own ardent beatings, and their swelling and tumultuous joys. We seem capable of a more vivid life, than we have ever before felt or dreamed of, and scarcely wonder that he who could thus give us a new sense of our own vitality, should have imagined that mind might become omnipotent over matter, and that he was able, by an effort of the will, to become corporeally immortal! The intensity of passion which is manifested in the novels of Godwin is of a very different kind from that which burns in the poems of a noble bard, whom he has been sometimes erroneously supposed to resemble. The former sets before us mightiest realities in clear vision; the latter embodies the phantoms of a feverish dream. The strength of Godwin is the pure energy of unsophisticated nature; that of lord Byron is the fury of disease. The grandeur of the last is derived from its transitoriness; that of the first from its eternal essence. The emotion in the poet receives no inconsiderable part of its force from its rebound from the dark rocks and giant barriers which seem to confine its rage within narrow boundaries; the feeling in the novelist is in its own natural current deep and resistless. The persons of the bard feel intensely, because they soon shall feel no more; those of the novelist glow, and kindle, and

agonize, because they shall never perish. In the works of both, guilt is often associated with sublime energy; but how dissimilar are the impressions which they leave on the spirit! Lord Byron strangely blends the moral degradation with the intellectual majesty; so that goodness appears tame, and crime only is honoured and exalted. Godwin, on the other hand, only teaches us bitterly to mourn the evil which has been cast on a noble nature, and to regard the energy of the character not as inseparably linked with vice, but as destined ultimately to subdue it. He makes us every where feel that crime is not the native heritage, but the accident, of the species of which we are members. He impresses us with the immortality of virtue; and while he leaves us painfully to regret the stains which the most gifted and energetic characters contract amidst the pollutions of time, he inspires us with hope that these shall pass away for ever. We drink in unshaken confidence in the good and the true, which is ever of more value than hatred or contempt for the evil!

"Caleb Williams," the earliest, is also the most popular of our author's romances, not because his latter works have been less rich in sentiment and passion, but because they are, for the most part, confined to the development of single characters; while in this there is the opposition and death-grapple of two beings, each endowed with poignant sensibilities and quenchless energy. There is no work of fiction which more rivets the soul—no tragedy which exhibits a struggle more sublime, or sufferings more intense, than this; yet to produce the effect, no complicated machinery is employed, but the springs of action are few and simple. The motives are at once common and elevated, and are purely intellectual, without appearing for an instant inadequate to their mighty issues. Curiosity, for instance, which generally seems a low and ignoble motive for scrutinizing the secrets of a man's life, here seizes with strange fascination on a gentle and ingenuous spirit, and supplies it with excitement as fervent, and snatches of delight as precious and as fearful, as those feelings create which we are accustomed to regard as alone worthy to enrapture or to agitate. The involuntary recurrence by Williams to the string of frenzy in the soul of one whom he would die to serve—the workings of his tortures on the heart of Falkland till they wring confidence from him—and the net thenceforth spread over the path of the youth like an invisible spell by his agonized master,

surprising as they are, arise from causes so natural and so adequate, that the imagination at once owns them as authentic. The mild beauty of Falkland's natural character, contrasted with the guilt he has incurred, and his severe purpose to lead a long life of agony and crime, that his fame may be preserved spotless, is affecting almost without example. There is a rude grandeur even in the gigantic oppressor Tyrel, which all his disgusting enormities cannot destroy. Independently of the master-spring of interest, there are in this novel individual passages which can never be forgotten. Such are the fearful flight of Emily with her ravisher—the escape of Caleb Williams from prison, and his enthusiastic sensations on the recovery of his freedom, though wounded and almost dying without help—and the scenes of his peril among the robbers. Perhaps this work is the grandest ever constructed out of the simple elements of humanity, without any intrinsic aid from imagination, wit, or memory.

In "St. Leon," Mr. Godwin has sought the stores of the supernatural; but the "metaphysical aid" which he has condescended to accept is not adapted to carry him farther from nature, but to insure a more intimate and wide communion with its mysteries. His hero does not acquire the philosopher's stone and the elixir of immortality to furnish out for himself a dainty solitude, where he may dwell, soothed with the music of his own undying thoughts, and rejoicing in his severance from his frail and transitory fellows. Apart from those among whom he moves, his yearnings for sympathy become more intense as it eludes him, and his perceptions of the mortal lot of his species become more vivid and more fond, as he looks on it from an intellectual eminence which is alike unassailable to death and to joy. Even in this work, where the author has to conduct a perpetual miracle, his exceeding earnestness makes it difficult to believe him a fabulist. Listen to his hero, as he expatiates in the first consciousness of his high prerogatives:

"I surveyed my limbs, all the joints and articulations of my frame, with curiosity and astonishment. 'What!' exclaimed I, 'these limbs, this complicated but brittle frame, shall last for ever! No disease shall attack it; no pain shall seize it; death shall withhold from it for ever his abhorred grasp! Perpetual vigour, perpetual activity, perpetual youth, shall take up their abode with me! Time shall generate in me no decay, shall not add a wrinkle to my brow,

or convert a hair of my head to gray! This body was formed to die; this edifice to crumble into dust; the principles of corruption and mortality are mixed up in every atom of my frame. But for me the laws of nature are suspended, the eternal wheels of the universe roll backward; I am destined to be triumphant over Fate and Time! Months, years, cycles, centuries! To me these are but as indivisible moments. I shall never become old; I shall always be, as it were, in the porch and infancy of existence; no lapse of years shall subtract any thing from my future duration. I was born under Louis the Twelfth; the life of Francis the First now threatens a speedy termination; he will be gathered to his fathers, and Henry his son will succeed him. But what are princes, and kings, and generations of men, to me? I shall become familiar with the rise and fall of empires; in a little while the very name of France, my country, will perish from off the face of the earth, and men will dispute about the situation of Paris, as they dispute about the site of ancient Nineveh, and Babylon, and Troy. Yet I shall still be young. I shall take my most distant posterity by the hand; I shall accompany them in their career; and, when they are worn out and exhausted, shall shut up the tomb over them, and set forward.'"

This is a strange tale, but it tells like a true one! When we first read it, it seemed as though it had itself the power of alchemy to steal into our veins, and render us capable of resisting death and age. For a short—too short! a space, all time seemed opened to our personal view—we felt no longer as of yesterday; but the grandest parts of our knowledge of the past seemed mightiest recollections of a far-off childhood:

"The wars we too remembered of King Nine, And old Assaracus, and Ibycus divine."

This was the happy extravagance of an hour; but it is ever the peculiar power of Mr. Godwin to make us feel that there is something within us which cannot perish!

"Fleetwood" has less of our author's characteristic energy than any other of his works. The earlier parts of it, indeed, where the formation of the hero's character, in free roving amidst the wildest of nature's scenery, is traced, have a deep beauty which reminds us of some of the holiest imaginations of Wordsworth. But when the author would follow him into the world—through the frolics of college, the dissipations of Paris, and the petty disqui-

etudes of matrimonial life—we feel that he has condescended too far. He is no graceful trifler; he cannot work in these frail and low materials. There is, however, one scene in this novel most wild and fearful. This is where Fleetwood, who has long brooded in anguish over the idea of his wife's falsehood, keeps strange festival on his wedding-day—when, having procured a waxen image of her whom he believes perfidious, and dressed a frightful figure in a uniform to represent her imagined paramour, he locks himself in an apartment with these horrid counterfeits, a supper of cold meats, and a barrel-organ, on which he plays the tunes often heard from the pair he believes guilty, till his silent agony gives place to delirium; he gazes around with glassy eyes, sees strange sights, and dallies with frightful mockeries, and at last tears the dreadful spectacle to atoms, and is seized with furious madness. We do not remember, even in the works of our old dramatists, any thing of its kind comparable to this voluptuous fantasy of despair.

"Mandeville" has all the power of its author's earliest writings; but its main subject—the development of an engrossing and maddening hatred—is not one which can excite human sympathy. There is, however, a bright relief to the gloom of the picture, in the sweet and angelic disposition of Clifford, and the sparkling loveliness of Henrietta, who appears "full of life, and splendour, and joy." All Mr. Godwin's chief female characters have a certain airiness and radiance—a light, visionary grace, peculiar to them, which may at first surprise by their contrast to the robustness of his masculine creations. But it will perhaps be found that the more deeply man is conversant with the energies and the stern grandeur of his own heart, the more will he seek for opposite qualities in women.

Of all Mr. Godwin's writings, the choicest in point of style is a little essay "on Sepulchres." Here his philosophic thought, subdued and sweetened by the contemplation of mortality, is breathed forth in the gentlest tone. His "Political Justice," with all the extravagance of its first edition, or with all the inconsistencies of its last, is a noble work, replete with lofty principle and thought, and often leading to the most striking results by a process of the severest reasoning. Man, indeed, cannot and ought not to act universally on its leading doctrine—that we should in all things seek only the greatest amount of

good without favour or affection; but it is at least better than the low selfishness of the world. It breathes also a mild and cheerful faith in the progressive advances and the final perfection of the species. It was not this good hope for humanity which excited Mr. Malthus to affirm, that there is in the constitution of man's nature a perpetual barrier to any grand or extensive improvement in his earthly condition. After a long interval, Mr. Godwin has announced a reply to this popular system—a system which reduces man to an animal, governed by blind instinct, and destitute of reason, sentiment, imagination and hope, whose most mysterious instincts are matter of calculation to be estimated by rules of geometrical series!—Most earnestly do we desire to witness his success. To our minds, indeed, he sufficiently proves the falsehood of his adversary's doctrines by his own intellectual character. His works are, in themselves, evidences that there is power and energy in man which have never yet been fully brought into action, and which were not given to the species in vain. He has lived himself in the soft and mild light of those pure and unstained years, which he believes shall hereafter bless the world, when force and selfishness shall disappear, and love and joy shall be the unerring lights of the species. T. D.

☞ We refer the reader to the work of Mr. Malthus for proof that it is here misrepresented.

THE PROMPTER—NO. X.

It will do for the present.—Part II.

Custom, with an iron rod, rules four-fifths of mankind. My *father* planted corn on a certain piece of land—it answered well—I do the same, though it does *not* answer well. My neighbour such a one tells me that I had better try a change of crops, deep ploughing, or sowing turnips or clover; it may be the land will recruit; but my neighbour is notional and fond of *new things*. I do not like projects. My father did so before me, and *it does for the present*.

So says the Virginia planter; he has raised tobacco on a field, until the soil is exhausted; he knows not how to fertilize the land again; his only resource is to clear a new spot and take the benefit of nature's manure. *This does for the present*. But when his land is *all* impoverished, what will he do? Go to Kentucky; as the New England men to Genesee. But when the western world is all peopled, what will our

do for the present folks do for good land? The answer is easy; necessity will compel them to use *common sense*; and common sense will soon make old poor land rich again. When farmers learn to *work it right*, they will keep it good, for the Prompter ventures to assert, that a *proper tillage* will for ever keep land good. How does nature *work it*? Why nature covers land with herbage; that herbage withers and rots upon the land; and gradually forms a rich black mould. But farmers, when they have used land till it will bear *no crops*, let it lie without feeding it. No herbage grows on the land, till the weeds and a little grass creep in by chance; after three or four years, the farmer ploughs it for a crop, and has a job at killing weeds. Surely the man *does not work it right*; but he says, *this will do for the present*.

But no *body* is so apt to put off things with, *it will do for the present*, as *corporate bodies*. If the navigation of a river wants improvement, the *public body*, that is, *any body, every body, and no body*, immediately exclaims, "how did our *fathers* get along? The river did well enough for them—it *must do for the present*." If a bad law exists, by which the *public money* is to be collected in the *worst manner* that can be imagined; or if a constitution is defective, in permitting the same men to be *makers and judges* of a law; or the same men to rejudge a cause in a *higher* court, which they have before judged in a *lower* court; or which makes a legislature of two hundred men, a supreme court, to review the decisions of all inferior courts, and reverse their judgments; or if a constitution has *no executive at all*, and a *judiciary power* dependent on the annual votes of two hundred men, which is little better than *none*; I say, if a man proposes any reformation in those particulars, the public body says, away with your *projects*; let us go on in the good old way: *it will do for the present*. So in little public bodies, a town or a city, the poor must be provided for, bridges must be built, roads must be repaired—How? By a tax, or by labour. Is it best to raise money enough this year to pay the town debt? No, says the town. We will raise *almost* enough; *this will do for the present*. Let a little debt accrue every year, till the whole will make a *shilling tax*, and pay the whole at once. Put off, put off, says the town. *And so says the sinner*.

A bridge must be built. Is it best to build a good one; of stone, or some materials that will last? No, it will cost more,

says the town; a wooden bridge *will do for the present*. The water may carry it away; it will decay, and somebody may break his neck by the fall; but no matter, *it must do for the present*.

I will close with the following short, but pertinent letter, which I have lately received from an unknown hand.

TO THE PROMPTER.

Sir—In your last number do you mean me?
A. B.

TO A. B.

Sir—I *do*, and all that are like you between *A* and *Z*; and you have not on earth a better friend than the
PROMPTER.

LECTURES.

We note, with much pleasure, the announcement of several courses of public lectures, to be delivered in this city, during the present winter, on subjects which do not fall within the common academic education. Nothing is more desirable than that hours of liberal occupation in the intervals of scholastic tuition or professional training, should be furnished at a moderate cost to our youth between the ages of twelve and twenty. It is the duty of parents to enable their children, if this be in their power, to improve the opportunities of instruction thus afforded; and it should be recollected that the benefit of frequenting such lectures does not consist merely in the elegant and solid information which they communicate. They gradually effect a general refinement of taste, as to intellectual pursuits, and incite the youthful mind to wide and elevated inquiries in kindred branches of knowledge. They tend to withdraw from the common walks of dissipation, and confirm in habits of beneficial employment, those who, in a large city, are particularly exposed to vicious and sauntering fellowship. It is not only the youth of both sexes, who may derive profit from them. Persons of mature age, embarked in business and the ordinary callings of life, may refresh at the same fountain their early tastes and studies; or they may supply the deficiencies which chance or limited opportunities had left in their first education.

The public courses to which we have alluded, are those of professor Patterson (on Natural Philosophy) the Rev. Dr. Abercrombie (on Oratory) and Mr. Darby (on the Geography and History of the United States).

With respect to the value and beauty of professor Patterson's lectures, too much

could not be said. They are well known to be entitled to every recommendation which the finest elocution, the utmost neatness in experiment, and a mastery of the science taught, on the part of the lecturer, would authorize us to bestow. He has always, we believe, in his previous courses, had a large class of both sexes, and it is to be expected, that the case will be the same on the present occasion.

Dr. Abercrombie is an experienced lecturer, whose success, heretofore, in the same career, attests his ability. He unites with his regular precepts an oratory drawn from the best sources, practical lessons in the *arts of reading and speaking*. His course appeals so directly to the business interests of all who would be distinguished at the bar or in our deliberative assemblies, that it cannot, we apprehend, fail to be numerously attended.

Mr. Darby has considerable and deserved celebrity for his publications on the geography of the United States. He is extensively versed in this subject, and may be presumed to have a correspondent acquaintance with our history, on which also he proposes to lecture. He delivered, the last winter, at New York, a course similar to that which he now offers to Philadelphia. Of his manner and skill as a lecturer, we know nothing from personal observation, but we have understood that he gave, on the whole, great satisfaction at New York, to hearers, upon whose judgment full reliance might be placed. Geography and history in general, form a primary concern in the culture of the understanding, at whatever age: those of our own country are the first in importance, as they should be in order—judicious direction in the study of them is useful, if not indispensable; they are susceptible of abstract and philosophical views which may greatly facilitate progress in them, and which can be possessed only by one who has dwelt intently upon them in their *ensemble* and all their details.

As we are on the subject of public lectures, we will venture to intimate our regret at two circumstances: 1. That the courses of Anatomy and Chemistry in the Medical School of the University of Pennsylvania are not more followed—as they might be with great advantage—by youth designed for whatever liberal vocation:—2. That Philadelphia is without a general establishment for popular lectures in the leading branches of the moral and physical sciences, and in polite literature. A considerable proportion of our readers have

heard, no doubt, of the Athenæum of Paris, with which professorships are connected so as to make it a rendezvous of the literary and fashionable world, for the purpose not merely of seeking entertainment in magazines and newspapers, but listening to able and elegant expositions of the annals and merits of domestic and foreign literature, and the principles and progress of science. This is independent of the splendid universities of that capital, and belongs, as it were, to the improvement of general society. Philadelphia possesses an Athenæum so called, highly creditable to the spirit of its founders, well constituted as far as it extends, and managed with much judgment and liberality. But it is confined within the character of a mere reading room. How much more useful and honourable to the city, how much more attractive and profitable to strangers, it would be, if assimilated more to the Parisian institution of the same name, we scarcely need remark. And there would be no great difficulty in placing it on a like footing, could the value and repute of such an arrangement be impressed on the public mind so as to win a pecuniary provision for the cost of the proper edifice, and the endowment of the chairs with a moderate stipend during the first sessions.

Considering her populousness, ample wealth, intelligence, and mental culture, Philadelphia in the aggregate has done but little for letters—she has reared no adult seminaries of learning; created no bank of deposit and circulation for liberal science. It is in her power, by giving her university a better organization and support, and enlarging her Athenæum into a temple such as we have indicated, to become in reality “the Athens of America;” to draw to herself annually from all parts of the United States, a crowd of votaries seeking to perfect an incomplete, or repair a deficient education. The emolument and celebrity which she has derived from her medical school, show how sensibly her interests would be promoted by an emulation of Edinburgh, as to her kindred establishments for philosophy, history and criticism. Nearly as great numbers have been attracted, and as much lustre has accrued, to the Scottish capital, by the chairs for general learning as those for medical education. The several faculties sustain each other, and together assure the presence of a multitude of followers, who enrich and vivify the city while they remain in it, and finally diffuse its fame throughout the world.

[*Nat. Gaz.*

A paper in New York state contains an advertisement by some person who has not sufficient steadiness to take care of himself, forbidding all persons to sell any spirituous liquors to him, on pain of having their names exposed to the public!

The celebrated Law School at Litchfield (Con.) is now under the care of judge Gould alone, judge Reeve, his venerable associate in the duty of delivering lectures, having retired from all concern in the management of the school, on account of his great age.

The ex-king of Norway, prince Christian Frederick of Denmark, is leading a literary life in Italy. He lately read a dissertation on Mount Vesuvius at a meeting of the Academy of Sciences at Naples.

Count Lasteyrie is publishing at his lithographic press in Paris, a series of plates to illustrate the machines, instruments, utensils, constructions, apparatus, &c. employed in rural and domestic economy, according to designs from various parts of Europe.

M. Cuvier, in a late discussion in the chamber of deputies observed, that elementary instruction was for the most part given gratuitously, or at a very small expense, in France. That 1,070,500 children learn at this moment to read and write in the minor schools, under the care of 28000 masters: and that 46,000 youths are admitted into the colleges, each paying a small tax of from 15 to 40 francs to the state.

Poetry.

FROM THE BOSTON REVIEW.

Sure, to the mansions of the blest,
When infant innocence ascends,
Some angel, brighter than the rest,
The spotless spirit's flight attends.

On wings of ecstasy they rise,
Beyond where worlds material roll;
Till some fair sister of the skies,
Receives the unpolluted soul.

There, at the Almighty Father's hand,
Nearest the thrones of living light,
The choir of infant seraphs stand,
And dazzling shine where all is bright.

Chained for a dreary length of years
Down to these elements below,
Some stain the sky-born spirit bears,
Contracted from this world of wo.

That inextinguishable beam,
With dust united at our birth;

Sheds a more dim discoloured gleam,
The more it lingers upon earth.

Closed in this dark abode of clay,
The stream of glory faintly burns;
Nor unobscured, the lucid ray,
To its own native fount returns.

But when the Lord of mortal breath,
Decreases his bounty to resume,
And points the silent shaft of death,
Which speeds an infant to the tomb,

No passion fierce, no low desire,
Has quenched the radiance of the flame—
Back to its God the living fire
Reverts, unclouded as it came.

Oh, Anna! be that solace thine:
Let hope her healing charms impart:
And sooth, with melodies divine,
The anguish of a mother's heart.

Oh! think the darlings of thy love,
Divested of this earthly clod,
Amid unnumbered saints above,
Bask in the bosom of their God.

Of their short pilgrimage on earth,
Still tender images remain;
Still, still, they bless thee for their birth,
Still filial gratitude retain.

The days of pain, the nights of care,
The bosom's agonizing strife,
The pangs which thou for them didst bear,
No! they forget them not with life.

Scarce could their germinating thought conceive,
While in this vale of tears they dwelt,
Scarce their fond sympathy relieve,
The sufferance thou for them hast felt.

But there the soul's perennial flower,
Expands in never fading bloom:
Spurns at the grave's poor transient hour,
And shoots immortal from the tomb.

No weak uniform'd idea, there,
Toils, the mere promise of a mind;
The tide of intellect flows clear,
Strong, full, unchanging, and refined.

Each anxious care, each rending sigh,
That wrung for them the parent's breast;
Dwells on remembrance in the sky,
Amid the raptures of the blest.

O'er thee, with looks of love they bend,
For thee, the Lord of life implore;
And oft from sainted bliss descend,
Thy wounded quiet to restore.

Oft in the stillness of the night,
They smooth the pillow for thy bed;
Oft till the sun's returning light,
Still watchful hover o'er thy head.

Hark! in such strains as saints employ,
They whisper to thy bosom peace—
Calm the perturbed heart to joy,
And bid the streaming sorrow cease.

Then dry henceforth the bitter tear,
Their part and thine inverted see;
Thou wert their guardian angel here,
They're guardian angels now to thee.

From the New York Evening Post.

There is an hour of solemn gloom
Which hangs the happiest bosom o'er;
In which e'en beauty's fairest bloom
And love's soft raptures joy no more;
An hour, in which the lonely heart
No passion feels save that of grief,
When gushing tears unbidden start
And give the anguished soul relief.
'Tis when we view the sable bier,
On which our early friends are laid,
'Tis when the last sad rites we hear,
The requiem o'er their reliques said;
'Tis when in death we see reposed
The form which beamed celestial fire,
The eye in dark oblivion closed
Which flashed on foes its vengeance dire.
'Tis when we see the holy heart
Which beat to glory's call and love,
At honour's voice no longer start,
Nor at the glance of beauty move;
'Tis when that heart which beat for us
With friendship's purest, holiest flame,
Pulseless; alas! the hallowed dust
No longer hails that sacred name.
Each high wrought deed of gen'rous worth,
With honour's fairest form impressed,
Of him who, pillowed low in dust,
On cold sod takes his 'wakeless rest,'
Each generous act of friendship dear,
Pass bright before our mental eye,
Claiming the tribute of a tear
For him who dwells beyond the sky.
'Tis when we feel the cords are burst,
Which bound in one our kindred minds;
'Tis when we feel that we are dust,
Our life but as the fleeting winds;
But still one hope the bosom cheers
By deep regret and sorrow riven:
When we have passed this vale of tears,
That we shall meet again in Heaven. CONNAL.

New Rape of the Lock.

Last night as o'er the page of Love's despair,
My Delia bent deliciously to grieve,
I stood a treacherous loiterer by her chair,
And drew the fatal scissors from my sleeve.
She heard the steel her beauteous lock divide,
And whilst my heart with transport panted big,
She cast a fury frown on me, and cried,
'You stupid puppy, you have spoiled my wig.'

Foreign Science.

*Experiments on the Effect of the Pressure of the Sea at great Depths, in augmenting the Specific Gravity of different kinds of Wood. By William Scoresby, jun. F. R. S. Edin. and M. W. S.**

At great depths, the effect of the pressure of the sea is not a little curious. My

* This very interesting article forms part of Mr. Scoresby's valuable and amusing work on the Arctic Regions. Through the kindness of

father met with the following singular instance, in the year 1794, which I have taken from his log-book.

On the 31st of May, the chief mate of the *Henrietta* of Whitby, the ship my father then commanded, struck a whale, which "ran" all the lines out of the boat before assistance arrived, and then dragged the boat under water, the men meanwhile escaping to a piece of ice. When the fish returned to the surface to "blow," it was struck a second time, and soon afterwards killed. The moment it expired, it began to sink, which not being an usual circumstance, excited some surprise. My father, who was himself assisting at the capture, observing the circumstance, seized a grapnel, fastened a rope to it, threw it over the tail of the fish, and fortunately hooked it. It continued to sink; but the line being held fast in the boat, at length stopped it, though not till the "strain" was such that the boat was in danger of sinking. The "bight" or loop of a rope being then passed round the fish, and allowed to drop below it, enclosed the line belonging to the sunken boat, which was found to be the cause of the phenomenon observed. Immediately the harpoon slipped out of the whale, and was, with the line and boat attached to it, on the point of being lost, when it was luckily caught by the encompassing rope. The fish being then relieved from the weight of the lines and boat, rose to the surface; and the strain was transferred to the boat connected with the disengaged harpoon. My father, imagining that the sunken boat was entangled among rocks at the bottom of the sea, and that the action of a current on the line produced the extraordinary stress, proceeded himself to assist in hauling up the boat. The strain upon the line he estimated at not less than three-fourths of a ton, the utmost power of twenty-five men being requisite to overcome the weight. The laborious operation of hauling the line in, occupied several hours, the weight continuing nearly the same throughout. The sunken boat, which, before the accident, would have been buoyant though full of water, when it came to the surface required a boat at each end to keep it from sinking. "When it was hoisted into the ship, the paint came off the wood in large sheets,

the author, we are enabled to present our readers with his curious experiments on the effects of the pressure of the sea at great depths; but for many additional and important details, we must refer them to the original work—*Ed. Philos. Journal*

and the planks, which were of wainscot, were as completely soaked in every pore, as if they had lain at the bottom of the sea since the flood." A wooden apparatus that accompanied the boat in its progress through the deep, consisting chiefly of a piece of thick deal, about fifteen inches square, happened to fall overboard, and though it originally consisted of the lightest fir, sunk in the water like a stone. The boat was rendered useless; even the wood of which it was built, on being offered to the cook as fuel, was tried and rejected as incombustible.

This curious circumstance induced me to make some experiments on the subject. I accordingly attached some pieces of fir, elm, and hickory, containing two cubical inches of wood each, to the marine diver, and sent them to the depth of 4000 feet. Pieces of wood, corresponding with each of these in shape and weight, were immersed in a bucket of sea water, during the time the marine diver and its attached pieces were under water, by the way of distinguishing the degree of impregnation produced by pressure, from the absorption which takes place from simple immersion. On being brought up, they were all specifically heavier than sea water; and, when compared with the counterparts, the clear effect of impregnation by pressure was found to be 302 grains in the fir and hickory, and 316 grains in the ash. This experiment was repeated in latitude $78^{\circ} 2'$, on the 7th June, 1817, by the immersion of twelve articles of different shapes and sizes, to the depth of 4566 feet. On this occasion, the apparatus was thirty minutes on its way down, rested 40 minutes, and took 36 minutes in drawing up, being altogether 106 minutes under water. The degree of impregnation produced on each of the different substances used in this experiment, is stated in the following table:

Names of Substances.	Shape.	Solid contents	Specific gravity after immersion.	Proportion of wt. gained per cubic inch by pressure.
Hickory	Wedge	Cub. In. 1.4436	W60° 1000 1.1760	Dra. Av. 4.606
Elm	Rect. prism	2.0040	1.1321	5.639
Beech	Ditto	2.0040	1.1806	4.790
Fir	Thin wedg.	0.9505	1.1168	4.050
Mahogany	Parallelop.	0.8792	1.0523	3.071
Lign. Vitæ	Rect. prism	1.9356	1.3315	0.336
Bone	Ditto	0.1380	2.1372	0.725

This degree of impregnation is not surprising, when we consider that the pressure of water, at the depth to which these

specimens of wood were sent, is equal to at least 2031 lbs. or 18 cwt. 15 lbs. on every square inch of surface.

These experiments were repeated on the 18th July, 1818. Finding, on former trials, that pieces of fir wood sent down 4000 feet, were more impregnated with sea water than others immersed only half that depth, I was in hopes that the degree of impregnation of similar pieces of the same kind of wood might be applicable as a measure of depth. If this were the case, it would serve a very valuable purpose, since all the plans hitherto contrived for measuring depths from a vessel, when sailing slowly, or drifting through the water, cease to be useful beyond 200 or 300 fathoms. With this view, I not only attached pieces of wood of different kinds to the lead, and provided counterparts for immersion in a bucket of water, but I also fastened cubes of ash, from the same piece of timber, of about one inch solid contents, and of exactly the same weight to the line, at intervals of about 500 feet; by the weight of which, when taken up, I could ascertain whether the increase of specific gravity was in any way proportionate to the depth. When the specimens of wood for this experiment were procured, a clear grained piece of double the size wanted for sending under water, was prepared, and then cut in two, and the two parts dressed to the same shape, and to within a quarter of a grain of the same weight: one of these was then adopted as a principal, and fixed to the lead or line; and the other as a counterpart, and put into a bucket of water. The specimens affixed to the lead were eleven in number, and consisted of wood of different kinds, shapes, and dimensions: they were sunk to the depth of 6348 feet, and the line was almost perpendicular for nearly an hour.

Each piece of wood attached to the line was taken off as hauled in, plunged in a basin of water, and conveyed into the cabin, where its weight in air and in fresh water was immediately taken. The interval between any two pieces was such, that I had just time to determine the specific gravity of one, before the next came up. On the arrival of the lead, the attached specimens were immediately immersed in water, and weighed as quickly as possible, together with their counterparts, which had been secured at the bottom of a bucket of sea water during the time the experiment was in progress.

The following table exhibits the results of this experiment:

EXPERIMENTS on the Counterparts, immersed three hours in a bucket of water.			EXPERIMENTS on Wood, immersed during two or three hours at various depths in the sea.												
N.	Quality.	Shape.	Weight in Air.	Weight in Water, with a load of 880 gr.	Weight of an eq. bulk of Fr. Wa. Temp. 60°.	Solid contents.	Specific gravity.	Depth.	Weight in Air.	Weight in Fresh Water, Temp. 60°.	Weight of an eq. bulk of Pu. Wa. Temp 60°.	Solid contents.	Specific gravity.	Increase of Weight by pressure.	Proportion of Weight gained per cubic inch.
I.	II.	III.	IV. Grains.	V. Grains.	VI. Grains.	VII. Cub. Inch.	VIII.	IX. Feet.	X. Grains.	XI. Grains.	XII. Grains.	XIII. Cub. Inch.	XIV.	XV. Grains.	XVI. Grains.
1	Ash	Cube	157	797	240	0.951	0.654	6348	278	40	238	0.943	1.168	121	128
2	—	—	157	797	240	0.951	0.654	5868	290	41	249	0.986	1.165	133	135
3	—	—	157	797	240	0.951	0.654	5370	283	40	243	0.963	1.165	126	131
4	—	—	157	797	240	0.951	0.654	4836	278	39	239	0.947	1.163	121	128
5	—	—	157	797	240	0.951	0.654	4284	288	38	250	0.990	1.152	131	132
6	—	—	157	797	240	0.951	0.654	3708	286	39	247	0.978	1.158	129	132
7	—	—	157	797	240	0.951	0.654	3198	280	37	243	0.962	1.152	123	128
8	—	—	157	797	240	0.951	0.654	2628	277	39	238	0.943	1.164	120	127
9	—	—	157	797	240	0.951	0.654	2058	289	35	254	1.006	1.138	132	132
10	—	Parallelo.	252	743	389	1.541	0.648	6348	493	73	420	1.663	1.174	241	145
11	—	Cube	318	723	475	1.881	0.669	6348	593	88	505	2.000	1.174	275	137
12	—	—	318	723	475	1.881	0.669	3708	594	88	506	2.004	1.174	276	138
13	—	—	449	625	704	2.788	0.638	6348	868	127	741	2.934	1.171	419	143
14	—	—	606	537	949	3.758	0.639	6348	1188	177	1011	4.004	1.175	582	145
15	—	—	606	537	949	3.758	0.639	4836	1180	173	1007	3.988	1.172	574	144
16	Fir	Rect. pris.	220	631	469	1.857	0.473	6348	534	40	494	1.956	1.081	314	161
17	Oak	—	350	758	472	1.870	0.720	6348	589	92	497	1.968	1.185	239	121
18	Hickory	—	407	849	438	1.734	0.929	6348	614	119	495	1.960	1.240	207	106
19	Teak	—	370	777	473	1.873	0.782	6348	574	94	480	1.900	1.196	204	107
20	Elm	—	289	752	417	1.651	0.693	6348	538	54	484	1.917	1.112	249	129
21	Cork	Cylinder.	49	711	218	0.863	0.225	6348	86	—94	180	0.713	0.478	37	52

From this table we may observe, that the greatest increase of specific gravity, by pressure, in the specimens of the different kinds of wood submitted to experiment, was obtained by the fir; the next greatest by the ash; the next by the elm; the next by the oak; the next by the teak; the next by the hickory; and the least by the mahogany. The cork gained still less than any of the pieces of wood. The proportion of impregnation of the same kind of wood, in specimens of different sizes and shapes, is derived from the experiments made on the ash; and it is curious to observe, that the largest cube of ash, No. 14, and the parallelipedon of the same, No. 10, received the greatest proportional increase of weight; while the smaller pieces received less and less additional weight, per cubic inch, as they decreased in size. Thus, No. 14, containing about 4 solid inches of wood, gained 145 grains per cubic inch; No. 13, of about 3 solid inches, gained 143 grains per cubic inch; No. 11, of 2 solid inches, gained 137 grains per inch; and the specimens of 1 inch, solid contents, gained from 127 to 135 grains. It is also a little curious, that the specimens sent to the depth of 2058 feet, were as much impregnated as those sent down above 6000 feet. The cube of ash, No. 11, consisting of 2 solid inches of wood, gained 137 grains per inch, at the depth of 6348 feet, while a similar specimen gained 138 grains, at the inferior depth of 3708 feet. In the same way, a cube of 4 solid inches gained 145 grains per inch, at the extreme depth; and 144 grains per inch, at the depth of 4836 feet. The degree of impregnation of the one-inch cubes of ash, produced by immersion to the depth of 2058 feet to 6348 feet, varies irregularly, but is evidently as great at the depth of 2058 feet, as under any superior pressure; so that it is probable that the greatest permanent impregnation by pressure, of such open grained woods as ash, elm, fir, &c. is produced at the depth of 300 or 400 fathoms. Hence, it is clear that no use can be made of this effect of pressure, for determining the depth, unless it be within 2000 feet of the surface; and even in this limit, the results may be uncertain.

From a comparison of column VII. with XIII., and column IV. with XV., it appears, that an effect of the impregnation of the wood with sea water, was to increase its dimensions, as well as its specific gravity; each specimen, on an average, having swelled 0.05 cubic inch in every solid inch of original dimensions, and gained 84 grains

on every 100 grains of original weight; that is, an increase of one-twentieth in size, and twenty-one twenty-fifths in weight.

I have little doubt, but the degree of impregnation always increases with the increase of pressure; but the air contained in the pores of the wood, which is never wholly disengaged, exerting an expansive force when the load of pressure is removed, forces part of the water out again. This was clearly discernible in some of the specimens used in the foregoing experiments, at the moment they were hauled up, their surfaces being covered with a thin pellicle of froth. Hence pieces of fir sometimes become buoyant, after being a few hours relieved from pressure, though kept constantly under water; but all other kinds of wood yet tried, though they lose a little of their moisture, yet remain specifically heavier than water, as long as they are kept immersed. Blocks of wood, indeed, are now in my possession, that were soaked with sea water in the year 1817, and yet remain, at the bottom of a vessel of water, nearly as heavy as when first drawn up out of the sea.

The degree of pressure at the depth to which I sounded in my last experiment, is not a little astonishing, being, under a column of water, 6348 feet in length, at least 2823 lbs. or 25 cwt. 23 lbs. on one square inch of surface. Hence on the larger cubes of ash used in the experiment, though measuring only 1.59 inches in diameter, the whole pressure must have exceeded nineteen tons!

It appears by a note in the 16th No. of the Journal of the Royal Institution of London, that the pyrolignous acid was known as early as 1661, and also its property of converting minium into sugar of lead.

New Alkalies.—Two new vegetable alkalies have been discovered by French chemists; which they have named *Brucine* and *Delphine*. The first is found in what the discoverers (Pelletier and Caventou) call false *Angustura bark* (*breccea antidy-senterica*). It crystallizes in oblique quadrangular prisms, colourless and transparent. It dissolves in 500 parts of boiling water. Its taste is exceedingly acrid and bitter. Administered in a dose of a few grains, it is poisonous. It forms neutral salts and bisalts, which crystallize with facility. *Delphine* was obtained by Lassaigne and Feneulle from the seeds of staves-acre (*delphinium staphysagria*). It is crystalline when wet, but becomes opaque as it dries. Its taste is acrid and bitter. It

melts by heat, and becomes hard and resinous. It is not very soluble in water. It forms neutral salts with the acids.

Count de Romanzow is fitting out at his own expense, an expedition which is to pass over the ice from Asia to America, to the north of Behring's straits; and to ascend one of the rivers which disembogue on the western coast in Russian America, in order to penetrate into the unknown tracts that lie between Icy Cape and the river Mackenzie.

New Hydraulic Machine.—Mr. Clymer has invented in London a pump of a simple construction, but powerful in its effects. It raises and discharges 250 or 300 gallons in a minute, not only of water but of stones and other hard substances, which are not too heavy. It is easy of transportation, and appears particularly well adapted to ships on account of its not being easily choaked, by sand, coffee, sugar, and other impediments.

An *Egyptian Society* has been formed in London, for the purpose of publishing lithographic prints of all the Egyptian monuments of architecture and sculpture, as well as of mummies and hieroglyphic inscriptions, in order, if possible, by a comparison of signs, to discover their meaning.

Lithographic printing has made a rapid progress in Russia. The plates illustrative of the journey of colonel Drouville in Persia, are of the finest execution. The designs are from the hand of M. Orlovsky, a distinguished artist of Petersburg.

The iron masters of Sweden have granted to professor Berzelius an annuity of 500 crowns, for the services which he has rendered to the chemical arts.

Record.

The next session of Congress commences on Monday the 13th of the ensuing month. The National Intelligencer of Saturday last, contains an editorial article relative to some of the great questions expected to occupy the attention of the representatives of the nation; and we are truly glad to observe, that the editors set out in their exhibition with objecting to the practice of long speaking, which has latterly so much prevailed in Congress—and, happily, Messrs. Gales and Seaton have in themselves much power to suppress the practice; it being notorious that many speeches are made only for the newspapers, and are hardly listened to by half a dozen members in either house. It would be curious if some person in the gallery would take an account of the several occupations of the members when a *speechmaker* had the floor, and tell us how many were writing letters, how

many reading newspapers, how many chatting at the fireplaces, &c. and how many apparently listening to what was said. When a debate is dragged out, like that on the Seminole war or the Missouri question, he is a lucky fellow in the House of Representatives who gets a dozen members to listen, occasionally, to what he says! But the right to speak is a very important one, and Heaven forbid that any regulation, except that of public opinion, should abridge it in either house of Congress; unless, when time presses and patience is worn out, it may be necessary to call for the "previous question."

The Missouri affair is first presented. We are told the senators and representatives will offer themselves at the bar to receive their seats, which they cannot obtain until the constitution recently adopted, is ratified by the two houses; hence, an early decision is desirable, &c. and so indeed it is, but we do not anticipate it—we fear another long and dull debate. For, abstracted from the main question, which some might have felt willing to pass over *sub silentio*, though severely opposed to the principle which it involves, for the sake of harmony—this constitution presents two *new* points for consideration. This is much to be regretted by both parties to what must stand as the chief objection. The constitution of Missouri forbids the passage of any law for the emancipation of slaves, without the consent of their owners, or an equivalent paid, &c. and also makes it the *duty* of the legislature to pass laws "to prevent free negroes and mulattoes from coming into and settling in the state, on any pretence whatever." It can hardly be believed that Congress will sanction either of these provisions: the first, in the present state of the public feeling, is inexpedient—besides, it is useless, and some will call it absurd; and the second is unconstitutional—because the legislature of the state has power over *property* of much greater amount than that to be derived from any authority which they may assume over slaves, regarding them also as property, and therefore it is useless: and it may be esteemed absurd, because the legislature can pass an act to tax slaves at the rate of 500 or 1000 dollars per head, per annum; and if such a tax were laid on females only, with a provision that they should be sold for a *term of years* and then be free, if it was not paid, what would become of the stock of slaves in Missouri? It would be extinct in a very few years, and the intent of the constitution become a nullity from the beginning; for slaves are a lawful subject of revenue, and may be taxed like any thing else: such is the principle of the constitution of the United States. And in regard to the other, it is expressly provided (art. iv. sec. 2.), "*that the citizens of each state shall be entitled to all privileges and immunities of citizens in the several states.*" This is a very plain, simple and imperative sentence. Free blacks and mulattoes are "*citizens*" in all the states, I believe, east of the state of Delaware, as well as in the states northwest of the river Ohio, and they cannot be dispossessed of their right to locate themselves where they please. It is true, several of the states have passed laws to prevent the migration of such persons, and I am not prepared to say that these laws are not beneficial; if they have effect to keep away free blacks and mulattoes, perhaps

it is well; but all such laws must yield to the *express letter* of the constitution of the United States, whenever their validity is tried. The passage of these laws by the legislatures of individual states, however, is a very different thing from the case now presented: in the former, they are proper questions for the judiciary, the rightful tribunal to appeal to; but, in the latter, Congress is called upon to legislate on the subject, and pass a law in evident opposition to a striking provision of the constitution under which they themselves directly act. These views of the matter first struck us when we read the constitution of Missouri, and we were sorry that difficulty was apparently heaped upon difficulty, by the provisions which we have pointed out. For these reasons we look for another tedious debate on the "Missouri question," and think that an early disposition of it will not be made. We truly regret it, and shall be glad if it turns out otherwise. [*Niles' Reg.*]

EXPLORING EXPEDITION—N. W.

From the Detroit Gazette of Sept. 15.

Last Friday evening governor Cass arrived here from Chicago, accompanied by lieutenant McKay, and Mr. R. A. Forsyth, both of whom belonged to the expedition—all in good health.

We understand that the objects of the expedition have been successfully accomplished. The party has traversed 4000 miles of this frontier since the last of May. Their route was from this place to Michilimackinac, and to the Saut of St. Mary's, where a treaty was concluded with the Chippeways, for the cession of a tract of land, with a view to the establishment of a military post. They thence coasted the southern shore of Lake Superior to the Fond du Lac, ascended the St. Louis river to one of its sources, and descended a small tributary stream of Sandy Lake to the Mississippi. They then ascended this latter river to the Upper Red Cedar Lake, which may be considered as the principal source of the Mississippi, and which is the reservoir where the small streams forming that river unite. From this lake they descended between thirteen and fourteen hundred miles to Prairie du Chien, passing by the post of St. Peter's on the route. They then navigated the Ouisconsin to the portage, entered the Fox river, and descended it to Green Bay. Then the party separated in order to obtain a topographical sketch of Lake Michigan. Some of them coasted the northern shore to Michilimackinac, and the other took the route by Chicago. From this point they will traverse the eastern shore of the lake to Michilimackinac, and may be expected here in the course of a week. Governor Cass returned from Chicago by land. A correct topographical delineation of this extensive frontier may now be expected from the accurate observations of captain Douglass, who is fully competent to perform the task. We have heretofore remained in ignorance upon this subject, and very little has been added to the stock of geographical knowledge since the French possessed the country. We understand that all the existing maps are found to be very erroneous. The character, numbers, situation and feelings of the Indians in those remote regions have been

fully explored, and we trust that much valuable information upon these subjects will be communicated to the government and to the public. We learn that the Indians are peaceable, but that the effect of the immense distribution of presents to them by the British authorities at Malden and at Drummond's island, has been evident upon their wishes and feelings through the whole route. Upon the establishment of our posts, and the judicious distribution of our small military force must we rely, and not upon the disposition of the Indians. The important points of the country are now almost all occupied by our troops, and these points have been selected with great judgment. It is thought by the party, that the erection of a military work at the Saut, is essential to our security in that quarter. It is the key of Lake Superior, and the Indians in its vicinity are more disaffected than any others upon the route. Their daily intercourse with Drummond's island, leaves us no reason to doubt what are the means by which their feelings are excited and continued. The importance of this site, in a military point of view, has not escaped the observation of Mr. Calhoun, and it was for this purpose that a treaty was directed to be held. The report which he made to the House of Representatives in January last, contains his views upon the subject.

We cannot but hope that no reduction will be made in the ranks of the army. It is by physical force alone, and by a proper display of it, that we must expect to keep within reasonable bounds, the ardent, restless and discontented savages, by whom this whole country is filled and surrounded. Few persons, living at a distance, are aware of the means which are used, and too successfully used by the British agents, to embitter the minds of the Indians, and preserve such an influence over them, as will insure their co-operation, in the event of any future difficulties. A post at the Fond du Lac, will, before long, be necessary, and it is now proper that one should be established at the portage between the Fox and Ouisconsin rivers.

Mr. Schoolcraft has examined the geological structure of the country, and has explored, as far as practicable, its mineralogical treasures. We are happy to learn, that this department could not have been confided to one more able or zealous to effect the objects connected with it. Extensive collections, illustrating the natural history of the country, have been made, and will add to the common stock of American science.

We understand that copper, iron and lead are very abundant through the whole country, and that the great mass of copper upon the Outouagan river has been fully examined. Upon this, as well as upon other subjects, we hope we shall, in a few days, be able to communicate more detailed information.

John Collins is elected governor of Delaware; and Caesar A. Rodney, and Lewis M'Lane, are elected to Congress.

New York, Oct. 21.

The Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in this state, which met in this city on Tuesday last, finished its business on Thursday

evening. It was more numerously attended than any previous convention in this diocese; 47 clergy and 67 lay deputies, in all 114 members, being present. The convention with great unanimity (there being only eight dissenting voices) adopted a plan for theological education in this diocese. The plan is of a nature calculated to unite the interests and views of Episcopalians throughout the state; and without being hostile to any plans that are contemplated elsewhere, by no means excludes the patronage which Episcopalians in other dioceses may be disposed to extend to a measure which promises to place theological education on a basis honourable to the church in this state and city, and to advance the great interests of the Protestant Episcopal Church at large.

Police Office, Savannah, Oct. 10, 1820.

The few remaining inhabitants require no information from this department, as to the disastrous state of things. The sad and melancholy spectacle daily exhibited, enables every resident individual, to form an immediate and infallible opinion. It is, therefore, for the benefit and information of absentees, our friends and fellow citizens, and that the whole public also should be treated with candour, that these notices are communicated.

Since the commencement of this desolating malady, cases of a malignant fever contradistinguished from other cases of bilious fever, have not at all been reported by some physicians, and irregularly by others. A better explanation will at some other time be given: all that I feel myself authorized now to say is, that the mortality, considering our present population, does not seem to diminish; that much sickness still prevails, and that three cases of *malignant fever* (as is denominated) have been reported to me, as having occurred from Saturday, and within this last 48 hours inclusive. But disease assumes various aspects of fever in our city, and each has had numerous victims. The appearances of the western state of the atmosphere promise no relief, and until they favour us, (under the blessing of the Almighty) we can hope for none.

THOS. U. P. CHARLTON, Mayor.

The prevalence of the influenza in Baltimore is manifested by the following singular fact—that the gentlemen of the bar are so afflicted with it, as to be unable to manage their causes before the court at the regular session of that body. The court were, consequently, compelled to adjourn for a week, to allow the gentlemen of the bar full time for the recovery of their oratorical talents. [*Morn. Chron.*]

It appears by an official statement published at Alabama, that there were over twenty-seven millions of dollars due to the United States, for public lands sold at the land offices in Mississippi and Alabama only.

We observe advertised in the Baltimore papers, for representation, “a new grand romantic melodrama, called *Ivanhoe*, or the Jew’s Daugh-

ter, performed in London last season with the greatest success.”

Captain Alexander Clark, of Nantucket, has sailed from Stonington with his squadron, consisting of 1 ship, 2 brigs, and a schooner, well armed and manned, with the intention of exploring the land newly discovered northeast of Cape Horn.

MARRIED.

On Thursday, the 19th inst. at Friends’ Meeting-house, in Pine street, Blakey Sharpless, to Mary Offley, daughter of the late Daniel Offley, all of this city.

DIED.

On the 19th inst. at Burlington, New Jersey, Elizabeth Foulke, of this city, for upwards of thirty years an eminent and highly respected minister of the society of Friends.

Extract of a Letter from Paris, dated 31st Aug.

“In a conversation with Mr. Gallatin this morning, I learnt that the French government show no disposition to come into our measures for the present at least; therefore the direct trade of the two countries must fall into third hands for some considerable time to come. Cowes has been hit upon as the place for deposit of cargoes destined for this quarter of France. This system, however, appears to me ridiculous, when neutral vessels can be found in abundance to carry on a direct trade with less delay and expense.” [*N. Y. Merc. Adv.*]

A constitutional journal is established at Naples, under the editorial management of two Neapolitans of literary talents, who went from Paris for that purpose.

Spain.—On the 4th of September a committee was appointed by the Cortes to frame a law project “for securing to the citizens the faculty of enlightening each other by means of political discussions, at the same time avoiding the abuse of the same.”

The London Sunday Observer of the 10th of last month states, “that the last three publications of the Observer, including the supplementary sheet, containing the trial of the queen, used 96,741 stamps, and 193 reams of paper.” The editor might have gone further, and said, that the sale of those papers produced 12,540 dollars 50 cents, and the revenue arising to government from the stamps, was 7,156 dollars: and might we not add, that if the queen’s trial continue much longer, the revenue from newspaper stamps will probably balance the expense of the prosecution. [*N. Y. Gaz.*]

Forging the new bank notes, about to be issued in England, is by a new statute to be punished, not with death, but with transportation for fourteen years.

Patent Machine Paper of J. & T. Gilpin, Brandywine.

Clark & Raser, Printers.